

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND CLAIMS**

**Call to Order:** Chair Llew Jones, on February 21, 2017 at 8:00 AM, in Room 317 Capitol

#### **ROLL CALL**

##### **Members Present:**

Sen. Llew Jones, Chair (R)  
Sen. Frederick (Eric) Moore, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Duane Ankney (R)  
Sen. Mary Caferro (D)  
Sen. Terry Gauthier (R)  
Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary (R)  
Sen. Bob Keenan (R)  
Sen. Mike Lang (R)  
Sen. Mary McNally (D)  
Sen. Albert Olszewski (R)  
Sen. Ryan Osmundson (R)  
Sen. Mike Phillips (D)  
Sen. Jon C. Sesso (D)  
Sen. Cary Smith (R)  
Sen. Jeffrey W. Welborn (R)  
Sen. Lea Whitford (D)  
Sen. Cynthia Wolken (D)

##### **Members Excused:**

Sen. David Howard (R)

**Members Absent:** None

##### **Staff Present:** Prudence Gildroy, Committee Secretary

Julie Johnson, Legislative Branch

Kris Wilkinson, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

##### **Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 260, 2/16/2017; SB 261, 2/16/2017; SB 287, 2/16/17;  
SB 126, 2/16/2017

Executive Action: SB 14 Be Tabled; SB 44 Do Pass As Amended; SB 106 Be Tabled;  
SB 115 Do Pass As Amended; SB 162 Be Tabled; SB 261 Do Pass As  
Amended; SB 287 Do Pass

00:01:45 Sen. Moore assumed the duties of chair.

**HEARING ON SB 260**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:02:12 Sen. Llew Jones (R), SD 9, opened the hearing on SB 260, Create school facilities subtrust within coal tax trust fund.

[EXHIBIT\(fcs38a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(fcs38a02\)](#)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:08:45 Lance Melton, Montana School Boards Association

[EXHIBIT\(fcs38a03\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(fcs38a04\)](#)

00:13:49 Dennis Parman, Montana Rural Education Association

00:15:07 Kirk Miller, School Administrators of Montana

00:17:48 Cary Hegreberg, Montana Contractors Association

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:19:33 Sen. Osmundson

00:19:52 Sen. Jones

00:20:30 Sen. Phillips

00:20:51 Sen. Jones

00:21:52 Sen. Sesso

00:24:02 Sen. Jones

00:26:14 Sen. Sesso

00:27:11 Sen. Jones

00:28:08 Chairman Moore

00:28:12 Sen. Jones

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:28:57 Sen. Jones

**HEARING ON SB 261**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:30:27 Sen. Llew Jones (R), SD 9, opened the hearing on SB 261, Generally revise state fiscal laws.

[EXHIBIT\(fcs38a05\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(fcs38a06\)](#)

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

00:35:57 Amy Carlson, legislative fiscal analyst, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:36:18 Sen. Sesso

00:36:57 Sen. Jones

00:37:34 Sen. Sesso

00:38:05 Sen. Jones

**EXHIBIT(fcs38a07)**

00:39:32 Sen. Sesso

00:39:59 Sen. Jones

00:41:06 Chairman Moore

00:42:05 Ms. Carlson, LFD

00:42:43 Chairman Moore

00:42:50 Ms. Carlson

00:42:59 Sen. Whitford

00:43:45 Ms. Carlson

00:46:22 Sen. Whitford

00:46:56 Ms. Carlson

00:48:31 Chairman Moore

00:48:50 Sen. Jones

00:51:07 Sen. Sesso

00:51:59 Sen. Jones

**EXHIBIT(fcs38a08)**

00:53:24 Sen. Sesso

00:54:16 Julie Johnson, Legislative Services Division

00:55:24 Sen. Jones

00:58:34 Sen. Wolken

00:58:48 Sen. Jones

00:59:08 Sen. Sesso

01:00:30 Sen. Jones

01:04:26 Chairman Moore

01:04:38 Sen. Jones

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:04:52 Sen. Jones

01:06:27 Recess

01:16:13 Reconvene

**HEARING ON SB 287**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:16:43 Sen. Llew Jones (R), SD 9, opened the hearing on SB 287, Reallocate funds related to Blackfeet Tribe water compact.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:19:56 Rep. Susan Webber, HD 16

01:24:05 John Bloomquist, Pondera County Canal and Reservoir Company

01:25:50 Jan Langel, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

01:26:29 Gerald Ludwig, director, Blackfeet Water Resources (BWR)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:27:52 Sen. Whitford

01:28:17 Mr. Ludwig, BWR

01:28:59 Sen. Whitford

01:29:11 Mr. Ludwig

01:29:58 Sen. Whitford

01:30:15 Sen. Jones

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:31:06 Sen. Jones

**HEARING ON SB 126**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:31:52 Sen. Keith Regier (R), SD 3, opened the hearing on SB 126, Revise laws related to property valuation appeal process.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:**

01:36:09 Cynthia Monteau Moore, Montana Department of Revenue

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:38:04 Sen. Phillips

01:38:37 Sen. Regier  
01:39:42 Sen. Phillips  
01:40:05 Sen. Regier

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:40:36 Sen. Regier  
  
01:41:08 Sen. Jones assumed the duties of chair.  
  
01:41:40 Recess.  
02:03:04 Reconvene  
  
02:03:18 Sen. Moore  
02:03:49 Chairman Jones

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 14**

02:04:05 **Motion:** Sen. Moore moved that **SB 14 DO PASS.**  
  
02:04:16 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Sen. Welborn made a substitute motion that **SB 14 BE TABLED.** Substitute Motion carried 12-6 by roll call vote with Sen. Caferro, Sen. McNally, Sen. Phillips, Sen. Sesso, Sen. Whitford and Sen. Wolken voting no. Sen. Howard voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 44**

02:06:04 **Motion:** Sen. Moore moved that **SB 44 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

02:06:09 Kris Wilkinson, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)  
[EXHIBIT\(fcs38a09\)](#)

02:10:05 **Motion:** Sen. Moore moved that **SB 44 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

02:10:24 Chairman Jones  
02:11:26 Sen. Caferro  
02:11:36 Ms. Wilkinson, LFD  
02:11:51 Sen. Caferro  
02:12:05 Ms. Wilkinson  
02:12:10 Sen. Phillips  
02:12:50 Ms. Wilkinson

02:13:34 **Vote:** Motion carried 17-0 by voice vote. Sen. Howard was excused.

02:13:39 Ms. Wilkinson  
[EXHIBIT\(fcs38a10\)](#)

02:14:25 **Motion:** Sen. Moore moved that **SB 44 BE AMENDED**.

**Discussion:**

02:14:33 Sen. Sesso

02:14:40 Julie Johnson, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

02:15:17 Sen. Caferro

02:15:29 Ms. Wilkinson

02:15:42 **Vote:** Motion carried 17-0 by voice vote. Sen. Howard was excused.

02:15:49 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Moore moved that **SB 44 DO PASS AS AMENDED**. Motion carried 17-0 by voice vote. Sen. Howard was excused.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 106**

02:16:21 **Motion:** Sen. Moore moved that **SB 106 DO PASS**.

02:16:29 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Sen. Welborn made a substitute motion that **SB 106 BE TABLED**. Substitute Motion carried 17-0 by voice vote. Sen. Howard was excused.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 115**

02:17:03 **Motion:** Sen. Moore moved that **SB 115 DO PASS**.

02:17:20 **Motion:** Sen. Moore moved that **SB 115 BE AMENDED**.  
[EXHIBIT\(fcs38a11\)](#)

**Discussion:**

02:17:25 Ms. Johnson, LSD

02:19:01 Sen. Wolken

02:19:08 Sen. Moore

02:19:50 Sen. Wolken

02:19:59 Sen. Moore

02:20:13 Sen. Olszewski

02:20:43 Ms. Johnson

02:21:08 **Vote:** Motion carried 17-0 by voice vote. Sen. Howard was excused.

02:21:17 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Moore moved that **SB 115 DO PASS AS AMENDED**. Motion carried 15-2 by voice vote with Sen. Keenan and Sen. C. Smith voting no. Sen. Howard was excused.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 162**

02:22:21 **Motion:** Sen. Moore moved that **SB 162 DO PASS**.

02:22:28      **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Sen. Welborn made a substitute motion that **SB 162 BE TABLED**. Substitute Motion carried 16-1 by voice vote with Sen. Olszewski voting no. Sen. Howard was excused.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 261**

02:22:49      **Motion:** Sen. Moore moved that **SB 261 DO PASS**.

02:23:11      **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Moore moved that **SB 261 BE AMENDED**. Motion carried 17-0 by voice vote. Sen. Howard was excused.

**EXHIBIT(fcs38a12)**

02:23:55      **Motion:** Sen. Moore moved that **SB 261 DO PASS AS AMENDED**.

**Discussion:**

02:24:06      Sen. Keenan

02:24:11      Sen. Jones

02:24:34      **Vote:** Motion carried 17-0 by voice vote. Sen. Howard was excused.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 287**

02:24:44      **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Moore moved that **SB 287 DO PASS**. Motion carried 17-0 by voice vote. Sen. Howard was excused.

**Committee Business:**

02:25:26      Sen. Sesso

02:26:03      Chairman Jones

02:26:16      Sen. Sesso

02:26:36      Chair Jones

02:27:10      Sen. Sesso

02:28:00      Sen. Caferro

02:28:30      Chairman Jones

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 10:30 AM

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Prudence Gildroy, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([fcs38aad.pdf](#))